

## **WEST CHICAGO INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM**

**July 20, 2007**

### **Minutes**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Barbara Magel, Counsel for Local Communities  
Kristine Meyer, CBBEWL, Local Communities  
Gary McCandless, IEMA/DNS  
Thomas Williams, IEPA  
Chuck Grigalauski, IEPA  
Don Feld, TAG  
Mark Krippel, Tronox  
Rupa Shenoy, Daily Herald  
Rebecca Frey, U.S. EPA, Superfund  
Eugene Jablonowski, U.S. EPA, Superfund  
Mary Fulghum, U.S. EPA, Office of Regional Counsel

#### **INTRODUCTIONS / COMMENTS**

Everyone in the room introduced themselves because there were some new attendees present. Becky introduced Gene Jablonowski, EPA Region 5's radiation expert. Also, Richard Allen resigned from IEMA/DNS as of July 13<sup>th</sup>. Until someone is selected to replace or act for Rich, Gary McCandless will be attending forum meetings and handling issues related to the Kerr-McGee Superfund sites on behalf of IEMA/DNS.

#### **RESIDENTIAL AREAS SITE**

The "old cleanup residual" issue was discussed at the last forum meeting, and Becky described the issue again for new forum attendees. Kerr-McGee cleaned up 117 properties in West Chicago in the mid-1980s under an agreement with the City of West Chicago. The 1980s cleanup used a cleanup criterion based on dose rate, while the Superfund cleanup in the 1990s/2000s used a cleanup criterion based on soil concentration as determined by soil samples and laboratory analysis. The issue is whether there is a potential for there to be any residual contamination at the base of the old 1980s excavation that might exceed the Superfund cleanup criterion.

Becky said that progress has been made on this issue since the last forum meeting. EPA has brought Gene Jablonowski on board to assist with the project and lead the technical evaluation of the properties in question. As the regional radiation expert, and having not been involved with the project for very long, Gene will bring a fresh, objective perspective to the evaluation process. Also, EPA met with the City and Tronox twice since the last forum meeting, once in June and again in July, to discuss potential ways to resolve the issue. It was decided that EPA will send out a letter to the owners of the 117 properties that were part of the 1980s cleanup to explain the issue and the process to resolve it. EPA, the City and Tronox have been collaboratively working out the language

for the letter, and the City will be providing personalized mailing labels based on current ownership information. Barbara said she would provide the labels to EPA as soon as they get all the remaining owner information from the County. EPA will then also send out another letter to the owners of all the other properties that were part of the Superfund cleanup but not part of the 1980s cleanup (an additional 582 properties) to explain the issue and that their property is NOT one of the 117 properties where this is potentially an issue.

EPA has also been working with the City and Tronox to develop a consistent, objective approach regarding how the 117 properties will be evaluated and categorized, as well as a uniform approach on how the evaluation will be documented. Becky said that the parties have agreed that the approach needs to be in-place and agreed-upon before the detailed evaluation occurs so that the evaluation is consistent from property to property. EPA is developing the draft evaluation process and will be working with the City and Tronox to finalize it, and after agreement is reached on the process, EPA will delve into the full detailed evaluation of the 117 properties.

Based on the detailed evaluation of the 117 properties, some properties will certainly “fall out” of the process and not be of further concern. At the other end of the spectrum, there may be properties that need additional sampling to determine whether or not there is any residual contamination at the base of the old excavation.

Becky and Barbara noted that it is important at the end of the day that the parties agree on how the evaluation was conducted, the decisions that were made, and that the issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

### **REED-KEPPLER PARK SITE**

Becky reported at the last meeting that EPA is conducting a five-year review for the site. Since the last meeting, the draft five-year review report was sent in mid-June to IEPA, EPA HQ and other internal reviewers. Becky has received everyone’s comments and will revise the report and put it into signoff, and it will probably be signed sometime in August. (The original due date was in September.)

### **SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT SITE, river portion**

The river portion of the STP site consists of Reaches 5A (from the STP to Gary’s Mill Road) and 5B (from Gary’s Mill Road to the confluence with Kress Creek). Reach 5A is in the maintenance & monitoring period, with all remedial construction work completed. Becky reported at the last forum meeting that Reach 5B was getting close to moving into the maintenance & monitoring period. By the end of June, the restoration plantings in Reach 5B were approximately 75% complete. Mark Krippel confirmed that the restoration planting process is still occurring in Reach 5B. When all the restoration plantings are completed, there will be a post-construction inspection for Reach 5B to identify any minor “punchlist” items that need to be addressed. Once all punchlist items are addressed, Reach 5B will move into the maintenance & monitoring period.

## **KRESS CREEK/WEST BRANCH DUPAGE RIVER SITE**

### **Cleanup Progress**

Becky reported that the 2007 construction season has been rolling along, but soon the project may be getting to the point where there will be some potential snags and/or delays due to unresolved property access issues in Reach 5D.

Since the last meeting, Tronox completed the 3-sided-sheetpile-enclosure cleanup work at the north end of Reach 5C around the beginning of June. Tronox then started bypass pumping for the southern part of Reach 5C and the northern part of Reach 5D on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The bypass pumping system was shut down for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday (from July 3 to July 7), and then pumping resumed on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Tronox recently completed all the cleanup work that needed to be conducted under bypass pump conditions, and turned off the bypass pumps a few days ago, on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Becky said that the potential snag she mentioned relates to the properties on the east side of the river at the northern end of Reach 5D South who have not yet gotten on-board with the cleanup. There are two or three property owners on the east side who have not yet granted access. Until Tronox works out those access issues, they cannot go across the properties in question to get to other properties that need cleanup. Another option is to come up with a "Plan B" to avoid the properties that have not yet granted access but that would still allow other cleanup work to proceed.

For some properties at the northern end of Reach 5D South (west side), Tronox executed a design change in order to get property-owner permission to do the work. This change included getting rid of the haul road that was planned for those properties. Instead, Tronox just traveled overland with the construction equipment without building a haul road. Also, Tronox extended a section of 3-sided sheetpile enclosure a bit further north. The property owners gave permission and that work got underway on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The land-based excavation work was completed on July 18<sup>th</sup> and the 3-sided sheetpile enclosure work is scheduled for next week when the river goes back down.

As mentioned, Tronox still has to work out some access issues on the east side of the river at the north end of Reach 5D South. Meanwhile, restoration work in Reaches 5C & 5D continues as excavation work is completed.

Becky also gave an update on the status of previous reaches of the Kress Creek site that were completed last year or earlier. For Reaches 1, 2 and 3A of the creek (storm sewer outfall through Manville Oaks Park), the final restoration plantings were completed by the end of June, so a post-construction inspection of those reaches will be scheduled soon. Once all punchlist items have been addressed, those reaches will move into the maintenance & monitoring period. Excavation work in Reach 3B (Kress Creek from Joliet St to Route 59) and Reach 4 (Route 59 to confluence) was completed in 2006, except for some isolated material in the Route 59 embankment. Tronox is still working

out issues with IDOT regarding the cleanup of that material. Otherwise, restoration plantings are nearly complete in Reach 3B, and are still ongoing in Reach 4.

### **Design Activities**

Tronox and BBL submitted the draft design for Reaches 5E and 6 (River Oaks subdivision to Williams Rd, and Williams Rd to Butterfield Rd, respectively) on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Both EPA and the Local Communities have provided comments to Tronox on the draft design. The EPA comments were sent on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Local Communities' comments were sent on June 29<sup>th</sup>. USFWS also provided comments through EPA. Tronox and BBL will be responding to the comments and revising and resubmitting the draft design.

### **Access Issues**

Access issues include the issues mentioned above regarding cleanup at the northern end of Reach 5D South. Additionally, further downstream, there are still 3 "no access" properties remaining along the river where testing has not yet been conducted. All 3 properties are located in Reach 8, the farthest downstream reach of the river (between the Warrenville Dam and the McDowell Dam). Mark Krippel reported that they may be making progress on one of the three "no access" properties in Reach 8.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

#### **NOAA Grant Projects**

Kristine Meyer gave an update on one of the projects being funded by the \$10 million NOAA grant. These projects are separate from the Superfund cleanup, but are being done as follow-on projects to help restore and improve the West Branch of the DuPage River.

Kristine reported that the Deep Pool project is nearing completion. A pedestrian bridge for the trail is still being worked on. Also, material that was stockpiled from the excavation work will be hauled off-site soon; the contract for that work has been awarded, so trucks hauling that material will be moving in and out of the site. The rest of the Deep Pool site area will then be restored. Kristine reported that 17,000 cubic yards of the material is going to the West Branch Forest Preserve in Bartlett, and the remaining 17,000 cubic yards is being handled at the contractor's discretion.

### **NEXT FORUM MEETING**

The next meeting of the West Chicago Intergovernmental Forum was originally scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> but was postponed due to scheduling conflicts at EPA. The next meeting of the Forum is now scheduled for **Friday, October 19, 2007, at 10 a.m.** in West Chicago City Council Chambers, West Chicago.

# **West Chicago Intergovernmental Forum Agenda**

**West Chicago City Council Chambers  
July 20, 2007  
10:00 am**

## **INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SITE STATUS UPDATES**

- **Residential Areas Site**
- **RKP Site**
- **STP Site (River Portion)**
- **Kress Creek Site**

### **OTHER AGENDA ITEMS / ISSUES**

- **Update on NOAA Grant Projects**

### **SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

### **ADJOURN**